

Remarks

This amendment is filed concurrently with the filing of the RCE to continue prosecution of the subject application.

Per this amendment, claims 1-21 have been canceled without prejudice and claims 22-27 have been added for prosecution.

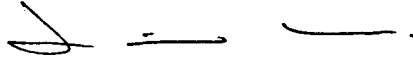
A first feature of claims 22-27 is that the information about the assignment of the prescribed number of multiple channels is placed in a prescribed area in a real-data recording area except a CIP (Common Isochronous Packet) header in the data field of the packet, and also at least one of a down sampling flag, a down mix flag, and a dequantization flag is placed in the prescribed area.

A second feature of claims 22-27 is that the channel information for identifying the respective channels for the PCM digital audio signal is placed in the prescribed area at a position adjacently preceding the PCM digital audio signal as an identifier for the PCM digital audio signal, and the channels for the PCM digital audio signal are placed at positions adjacent to each other in the prescribed area.

According to the first and second features, the inventive apparatus and methods of claims 22-27 can implement multiple-channel PCM, and can enhance a convenience in use due to the multiple-channel designing.

The first and second features of claims 22-27 as noted above are neither taught, nor suggested, by Heo et al (USP 5,987,417), Horiguchi et al (USP 6,137,949), and/or Maeda et al (USP 6,072,759). Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claims 22-27 are not anticipated by or obvious over the prior art, and are therefore patentable over Heo et al, Horiguchi et al, and Maeda et al. The examiner is thus respectfully requested to pass the case to issue at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



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